

the respective flange 130 of the second member 104. The clip 100C is then rotated in direction 150 until the opposing second arm 124C snaps over the respective flange 130 as shown in FIG. 14. This permits the clip 100C to be attached to the second member 104 without having to be slid on over the end of the second member 104.

5 Thus, the clip 100C can be added to the vertical framing member of an existing wall framing assembly without removing the horizontal framing member first.

FIG. 15 is a cross sectional view similar to FIG. 5, illustrating the advantage of defining a clearance notch 154 between the second arms 124C and the base 114C. This permits flexing of the second arms 124C during installation of the clip 100C to the second member 104, to prevent binding between the members in the slip joint. This also provides a clearance relief for the second arms 124C in the inside corners of the horizontal framing member to facilitate the nesting attachment of the base 114C within the cavity 136. Preferably, the longitudinal length of the notch 154 is less than the length of the flanges 134, so that the clip 100C is laterally supported by the top member 102 as described above. This permits use of the clip 100C in short leg (shallow) track without disengaging the arm 124C from the support associated with being within the cavity 136. In effect, this permits the conversion of short leg track into the equivalent of deep leg track for deflection purposes.

FIG. 16 is a diagrammatic isometric illustration of a wall framing assembly comprising the first member 102, or first track, and a third member 156, or second track, substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track 102. A plurality of second members 104, or studs (only two shown), are interposed between the tracks 102, 156, each stud 104 comprising a longitudinal extending medial web portion 128 and one or more longitudinal stiffening flanges 130 between a first end and a second end of the stud 104.

The clip 100 operatively connects a selected stud's first end to the first track 102 in a slip joint. Another clip 100 can operatively connect the selected stud's second end to the second track 156 as well. Alternatively, a fastener 158 can be used in a conventional manner to attach the stud 104 second end to the second track 156.

Also associated with FIG. 16 is a novel method of framing a wall assembly, comprising providing the first track 102 and providing the second track 156 substantially aligned and spatially disposed from the first track 102. Furthermore, a method includes providing a plurality of studs 104 interposed between the tracks 102, 156, each stud 104 characterized by a longitudinal extending medial web portion 128 and one or more longitudinal stiffening flanges 130 between the ends of stud 104. A method of the present invention further comprises providing the clip 100 for operatively connecting a selected stud's first end to the first track, the clip comprising a base connected to the first track and a guide depending from the base comprising opposing engaging surfaces defining a channel receivingly engaging a portion of the selected stud's web in a characteristic operative sliding relationship. A method of the present invention further comprises engaging the selected stud's first end with the clip 100, connecting the clip 100 to the first track 102 with a fastener, and connecting the selected stud's second end to the second track 156 with a fastener.

FIGS. 17 and 18 are isometric and side views, respectively, of a clip 100 constructed substantially similar to the clip 100 of FIG. 1 such that like features retain like reference numbers. It will be noted, however, that whereas the opposing arms 122, 124 have outwardly curving distal end portions in the clip 100 of FIG. 1, contrarily the arm 122 in the clip 100 of FIG. 17 is substantially straight at the distal end. The opposing arm 124 in FIG. 18 is curved at the distal end to facilitate placement of the web 128 (not shown) into the gap 126.

It is clear that the present invention is well adapted to attain the ends and advantages mentioned as well as those inherent therein. While a presently preferred embodiment of the invention has been described for purposes of the disclosure, it will be understood that numerous changes may be made in the construction, operation and arrangement of the various elements, steps and procedures without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.